Join David Culp, author and garden designer, for a captivating day of gardening talks. Brandywine Cottage is David Culp’s beloved two-acre Pennsylvania garden where he mastered the design technique of layering—interplanting many different species in the same area so that as one plant passes its peak, another takes over. The result is a nonstop parade of color that begins with a tapestry of heirloom daffodils and hellebores in spring and ends with a jewel-like blend of Asian wildflowers at the onset of winter. David is the author of *The Layered Garden*, which demonstrates how to recreate Culp’s majestic display.

**DAVID’S TOPICS FOR THE DAY:**

*The Layered Garden*

David Culp will show us how to recreate the majestic display of his beloved two-acre Pennsylvania garden, Brandywine Cottage. It contains a basic lesson in layering—how to choose the correct plants by understanding how they grow and change throughout the seasons, how to design a layered garden, and tips on maintaining it. To illustrate how layering works, David will take you on a virtual tour through each part of his celebrated garden. The lecture culminates with his signature plants for all four seasons.

*Making Meadows*

Native plant meadows support many landscape purposes, from lawn alternatives on residential sites to larger scale, ecologically sound models that provide biodiverse habitats for a host of pollinators, birds and mammals. David will discuss practical and aesthetic considerations on how the design, installation and management of meadows complement the sites on which they exist.

**LUNCH IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TICKET.**

$55 FOR MEMBERS, $65 FOR NON-MEMBERS

**TO REGISTER VISIT WWW.IOWAARBORETUM.ORG OR CALL 515.795.3216.**

*More information on page 6*
Henry David Thoreau said “Things do not change; we change.” Over our lifetime our dreams and aspirations change and so do our interests and activities. As an arboretum, we must be aware of those changes and make sure we have a host of activities and experiences available to meet the changing wants and needs of our visitors.

Our master plan addresses those “life” changes. A new Children’s Garden will fascinate our youngest visitors. Multiple tree houses and an elevated woodland ropes course will draw teenagers and families. Expanded walking trails and iconic bridges will attract dog walkers and wildlife observers from far and near. An architecturally interesting events center will focus on hosting life events and art exhibits. Artistic sculptures, stately garden structures, and imaginative water features will entice all visitors. New plant collections will charm plant lovers of all ages.

Because change is inevitable, we will continue to share our plans and encourage you to be involved in the growth of the Iowa Arboretum.

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**MY FAVORITE TREE | Cercis canadensis | Eastern Redbud**

*By Lee Goldsmith*

Lee Goldsmith is the Nursery Manager at the Department of Natural Resources State Forest Nursery in Ames where she grows native tree and shrub seedlings.

I love everything about redbud seeds. Yes, the trees are lovely too, but the seeds are just marvelous. *Cercis canadensis* packages its offspring in such a tough coat that I will soak it in 98% sulfuric acid to ensure adequate germination for nursery plantings. Without such assistance, the tough coating wears downs slowly over time and germination is sporadic and unreliable. At the same time, the sensitive embryos are well protected from pathogens and desiccation.

Collecting its light, papery pods is easy compared to the labor of hauling heavy acorns or picking through spikey plums. I can clean them without dealing with the wet mess produced from cleaning fleshy berries, and they readily separate from the light, papery pods leaving me with clean seed. The small rounded seeds flow smoothly through the planter and are easy to plant. These plants are simply a pleasure to work with.

The dainty cotyledons (seed leaves) that spring from the treated embryos are rewarding to observe in nursery beds and they maintain their elegance throughout their lives. Soon, someone will adopt them and give them a new home and purpose. After a few years, they will begin to produce sprays of spring color in the woods where they are planted; adding joy and habitat to our woodland ecosystem.

**TREE FACTS:**

- Redbuds are found in the woodland understory where soil is well drained and more acidic.
- Redbud flowers are pollinated by numerous bee species, making it a good choice for pollinator communities.
- Trees are typically small, multi-stemmed understory trees with spreading canopies.
- Seeds resemble lentils and just one pound contains approximately 16,000-17,000 seeds.
JADYN MORTENSON

My name is Jadyn Mortenson. I am 16 years old. I am the youngest of two and have lived in Boone for my whole life. I came to the arboretum to gain some marketing experience through a class at my school. I was approached by multiple businesses on opportunities like this but the arboretum was the most inviting, so I chose to come here. I have always known about the arboretum as it was one of my great-grandma's favorite places to be. My grandma would bring her here and she just loved it. After she passed a few years ago my grandma and her siblings donated a tree in her name. So when I was approached to join the arboretum, it was an instant yes. Over the few weeks that I have been here, I have already learned so much and everyone has been so kind and inviting. I hope to learn much more during my time here and I am thankful I was given this opportunity.

Jadyn is part of the Boone High School Edge program that links area businesses with high school students to gain practical experience in a specific field of interest.

It was an instant yes.

~ JADYN MORTENSON

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jamie was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa and currently resides on Des Moines’ south side with her husband, Eric, and son, Arthur (Artie). She received her B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in 1999. After leaving Iowa for several years after college (IL, CA, CO), Jamie returned to Des Moines to pursue a law degree at Drake University, receiving her JD in the fall of 2007. Since that time she has worked as an attorney in the Abuse Coordinating Unit of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and is involved in all aspects of the investigative and appeal processes as they relate to dependent adult abuse in health care facilities and programs in Iowa. In her free time, Jamie enjoys traveling, cooking, yoga, and spending time outdoors. It has been especially rewarding to explore nature through the eyes of a toddler. While Jamie has always appreciated Iowa’s wide open spaces, the need to protect and celebrate them has gotten more pronounced as she raises a new generation of nature lovers.

NEW EVENT SPECIALIST

We are pleased to announce that Megan Mariotti is rejoining our staff as our new Event Specialist. Megan was our 2017 Special Events Summer Intern. She successfully managed the first ArbFeast fundraising event and she also assisted with weddings. She is a graduate of the Event Management program at Iowa State University. Megan’s background includes hotel customer service and food service management. Welcome back, Megan!

THANK YOU JOHN

John Wassenaar was honored at the Annual Meeting in November for serving as a board member from 2012 – 2018.
A NATURAL PERSPECTIVE
BY LEAH WORTH, HORTICULTURE PROJECT MANAGER

The nature of an Iowa landscape can look very different to each one of us. If uniformity and a carefully planned concept is what you seek, then you probably like designing according to plant-height; creating distinct layers of small, medium, and tall species from front to back. Color often dictates placement in this kind of landscape. On the other hand, mimicking nature in your landscape may look wilder and more untamed. With this mindset, plants are often mixed between high and low levels; giving an overall field-impression of varying structures and colors.

The latter of the two concepts has been gaining steam in Europe and the United States in recent years, and the landscape designer extraordinaire and leader of the “new perennial” movement, Piet Oudolf, is primarily to thank. Do a quick Google search of Piet Oudolf and you will find unlimited links to his previous design works, publications, videos, and more.

Colorful meadows are Piet’s trademark. He emphasizes that gardens should be a dynamic space, working well in summer and winter because of different blooming times and skeletal interest. Labeled as the “Green Rembrandt” by one reviewer, Oudolf’s framework of landscape artistry has definitely had a trickle-down effect to all types of public spaces.

Last September the Iowa Arboretum incorporated Oudolf’s style of gardening to the grounds. Installation and planning wouldn’t have been possible without the design-assistance of Linda Grieve, board president, and the implementation by the Iowa Nursery Landscape Association. As featured on our cover page of our winter newsletter, one of the three projects completed during the INLA’s service day was the new landscape on the west side of the Hughes Education Center. A sophisticated palette of plants was chosen, that as Oudolf suggests, should look as good as they do in flower as they do in frost and decay.

Characteristic Oudolf selections include a variety of grasses, perennials with purple and blue hues, and pollinator plants. Grass species such as autumn moor grass (Sesleria autumnalis), feather reed grass (Calamagrostis x acutiflora), and switch grass (Panicum virgatum) are classics of Oudolf’s look. Plants with vivid flower spikes above a lace- or fern-like foliage structure may include perennial salvia (Salvia nemorosa and S. sylvestris), mountain fleece (Persicaria amplexicaulis), and black cohosh (Actaea racemosa). Other plant selections such as meadow-rue (Thalictrum species) and autumn-flowering monkshood (Aconitum carmichaelii) provide that spontaneous shift of color, height, and texture in the garden.

An overwhelming feeling of excitement is shared as this new arboretum planting transpired into fall and winter. Even in their juvenile state, an array of seed heads and wind-dried stems provide a surprising element to this intimate landscape. As the season soon changes to spring, the first unfurling will bring a whole new element to the scene. However, a common question has been raised on maintaining such a free-flowing and wild space.

Similarities exist between Piet Oudolf’s style and author of the Know Maintenance Garden, Roy Diblik. The connotation that gardening is difficult and time-consuming is far beyond the truth with this whimsical and free-flowing style. Every plant holds an intimate association with others that surround it. Rather than assuming every plant behaves and should be maintained the same way (i.e., weed, add wood-chips, replace dying plants, repeat), the Know Maintenance approach emphasizes that we should look for the relationship and community that plants form with one another. For example, rather than taking a meadow-rue stem due to its floppy nature, plan to plant it behind a shrub to give it natural support.

The Know Maintenance approach also underlines the importance of being inspired by nature and the elements (i.e., light, soil, and the lay of the land) it provides, rather than being confined to them. Though the site itself may seem challenging due to a dry creek bed that behaved more like a kayakable creek this past year, understanding how well and how fast the water would drain from the area is a result of knowing the soil type. Plants that can tolerate both saturated and dry soil conditions such as mountain fleece and autumn moor grass will provide that needed reassurance of survival of such extremes.

Lastly, the Know Maintenance approach hones in on keeping gardening simple. Spent flowers, skeletal leaves, and bent over plumes provide interest in the winter and early spring. Instead of selecting specific perennials to cut back in the fall and the spring, allow all the plants to transpire; an entirely different look will appear that is more structural than the Iowa months with color. Clean up will also be a breeze in the spring when it is time to cut things back for new growth.

I welcome you to visit the arboretum this spring, as well as all the seasons, and experience the wild, untamed, and whimsical nature of this new “Know Maintenance” garden. It may not be your cup of tea for your own garden style, but it may pique your interest to incorporate some of the styles and practices that Piet Oudolf and Roy Diblik are known for.
AT THE ARBORETUM

Boone Area Humane Society

Genesis Development

Girl Scouts Service Unit 503 - Christmas Tree Decorators

Wreath Class

Snowshoeing

Waffle Breakfast

Snowshoeing

Arboretum For All Seasons

Pumpkin Carving Night

Pumpkin Carving Night

Pumpkin Carving Night
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & CLASSES

PRUNING WORKSHOP
Sunday, March 10 • 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Brush up on your pruning techniques with this informative and hands-on class all about shrubs! Learn how to determine what cuts to make for general shrub care and maintenance, blooming, shape and habit, and rejuvenation. After instruction, try your hand at pruning a variety of deciduous and evergreen species within the arboretum’s living collections. Dress for the outdoor weather.

Minimum attendees required: 8
Fee: $15 for members and $20 for non-members

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 16 • 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Iowa Arboretum’s own Kevin Lantz and family members will be sponsoring this event! No cost this year, just free will donation! Challenge Kevin to make one of a kind scrumptious pancake for you! Come hungry and leave full.

MAPLE SYRUP DAY
Saturday, March 30 • 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Maple Syrup Day is a fundraiser event for Iowa State University’s Xi Sigma Pi, a national forestry honor society. Guests can enjoy pancakes plus bacon and refreshments. Visitors will have the chance to learn about the syrup-making process, partake in an interpretive walk, learn about the Iowa Woodland Owner’s Association, and enjoy a limber sports demonstration put on by the Iowa State University Forestry Club. Funds raised from the breakfast will be used for future society events and projects.

Pancake Breakfast: $8 for adults, $5 for children, 5 years old and under are free

RUN FOR THE TREES
Saturday, April 27 • 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Come to the Iowa Arboretum for a scenic 5K or 1 mi. family walk/run on our trails. What could be a better spring location to enjoy the outdoors? A fun variety of Arbor Day activities will follow the race!

Please note: We strive to preserve the natural elements of our woodlands; therefore, trails may be muddy due to weather. Please dress accordingly.

Register at GetMeRegistered.com

GET TO KNOW YOUR SUCCULENT CLASS
Saturday, April 13 • 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
It is the latest craze! Come to the Iowa Arboretum to learn everything you need to know to grow a beautiful succulent container. We can provide you with a unique pot or you can bring your own small container. Anything that holds soil will do: an old shoe, a coffee mug, or Mason jar. All other materials are provided. You will learn how to care for succulents while learning about the Iowa Arboretum. Enjoy themed snacks and drinks. The event is sponsored by Salama Greenhouse (Boone) and admission is $5.

MARILYN ANDERSEN DISPLAY
Opening: Sunday, March 31 • 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Exhibit Hours: March 31 – April 14 • MON – FRI: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, SAT: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, SUN: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Local artist Marilyn Andersen will be displaying her handmade textiles in the Hughes Education Center. Please join us for the opening of the exhibit on March 31 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Meet the artist and enjoy tasty treats. The exhibit will be open from March 31 to April 14.

Marilyn’s Story: I became enthralled with textiles during the process of designing a weaving studio for a class project while studying architecture at Iowa State University. I enrolled in weaving courses at ISU and have added to my textile knowledge through self-study and 40 years of experience. I enjoy all aspects of the fiber arts from raising the fiber animals, shearing, spinning and dyeing to weaving a useful object. My hand spun yarns find their way into hand knitted items and the fibers from my llamas and angora goats are used in felted items. In addition to the natural fibers, I weave many cotton rugs using new and recycled fabrics. I love working with clients to create pieces that coordinate perfectly with their home or office.

All my work is done in an old chicken house on our acreage that has been repurposed as studio space. I have several floor looms and multiple spinning wheels. I can watch our llamas, angora goats and chickens through the windows as I spin or weave.

Register at GetMeRegistered.com

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES VISIT WWW.IOWAARBORETUM.ORG OR CALL 515.795.3216
OPEN SUNRISE TO SUNSET
Discover hundreds of species of trees, shrubs and flowers in a tranquil setting, as well as woodland trails and prairie walk. Use the pedestrian gate and auxiliary parking lot when the main parking lot is closed.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK
Check out our new website! www.iowaarboretum.org

SAVE THE DATE

IOWA ARBORETUM
Garden Social & Auction

Plant Sale, Dinner, Drinks, and Silent & Live Auction

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Plant Sale: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Dinner: 5:30 PM
Live Auction: 6:30 PM